



A geomorphologist classifies an eroding area at the head of Clear Creek.

Award Amount
\$556,325

Watershed
Cosumnes River Watershed

County
Amador, El Dorado, and Sacramento Counties

CALFED Region
Delta Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 3 and 4
State Assembly: 4 and 10
State Senate: 1

Purpose

Gather information necessary to develop a long-range management plan for the Cosumnes River Watershed.

Project Goals

- Inventory and characterize stream channel erosion by subwatershed.
- Develop a map of unsurfaced roads in the entire watershed.
- Estimate relative sediment yield by subwatershed and land-cover/land-use type.
- Monitor and characterize sediment transport.
- Assess watershed conditions and identify resource problems.
- Prepare a watershed assessment report.
- Develop an extensive community outreach program.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

The Ecosystem Restoration Program has targeted the Cosumnes River Watershed for restoration of seasonally flooded habitat, tidal wetlands, splittail and Chinook salmon rearing habitat, sandhill crane habitat, and riparian plant communities. The inventory produced by the Cosumnes River Watershed Inventory and Assessment will be used to promote the CALFED Program's mission to restore ecosystem health by identifying problems in the Cosumnes River Watershed and by providing an information base for future watershed planning efforts. This project also supports water quality improvement and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement by prioritizing and recommending areas and resources for treatment to reduce erosion, sediment, and flood damage.

Project Overview

The Cosumnes River extends upstream from the marshes and valley oak riparian forests of the Delta to the coniferous forest at Plummer ridge in the Sierra Nevada above 7,600 feet. The Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (RCD), in coordination with the Cosumnes River Task Force (CRTF), is completing a resource inventory of the Cosumnes River watershed. The inventory will be used to develop a watershed management plan. The resulting watershed management plan will guide resource planning, restoration, enhancement, and water quality improvements in the watershed.

The RCD uses information collected from previous studies, ongoing studies, and new data collection efforts to develop a watershed conditions assessment identifying resource problems throughout the watershed. Based on stakeholder meetings led by the CRTF, there is a strong local desire to complete a comprehensive watershed plan for the Cosumnes River Watershed. Other ongoing studies are collecting some, but not all, data necessary to specifically support a watershed planning effort. This project provides the additional information needed to fully support the development of a watershed management plan.

To ensure extensive stakeholder involvement, the RCD and the CRTF conduct extensive public outreach and education with continued coordination and facilitation by CRTF. CRTF has demonstrated successful integration of watershed efforts over the past 5 years. Outreach activities include coordination with related watershed organizations, such as the Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed Alliance, monthly updates on the CRTF website regarding project progress, a quarterly newspaper, and public meetings to present preliminary and final conclusions and to get public input.



These well-vegetated banks provide bank stability on the Cosumnes River.

Contact Information

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